

## Just Say No to the Touts

Posted: June 2009

U.S. Embassy Peru has received reports of individuals outside the Embassy offering to help fill out forms and/or “provide” visa applicants with various documents or information. The sellers claim their assistance can improve the applicant’s chances of being issued a visa. The US Embassy strongly advises applicants to arrive at the Embassy fully prepared for their interview, as the goods and services offered by these individuals can be fraudulent, and can often weaken an applicant’s interview. Using them will probably diminish the likelihood of receiving a visa. Furthermore, applicants who leave the line to use their services will not be allowed to retake their place in line.

The majority of visa classes (including tourist and study visas) require applicants to overcome non-immigrant law which presumes each applicant is an intending immigrant. Each applicant’s case is evaluated during the interview on its own particular merits. To overcome the presumption that you are an intending immigrant, you will need to demonstrate your ties to Peru. During your interview you should be able to describe the social, educational, professional, and financial ties that you have to Peru.

Since your particular ties will be assessed during the interview, there is no information a third party, such as the touts outside the Embassy, can provide to improve your chances of being issued a visa. Therefore, it is best to candidly answer the questions asked during your interview.

Please note that there is a US\$131.00 application processing fee, payable in local currency (Nuevos Soles) at Banco Continental before applying. For some visa classes and nationalities, additional issuance fees may apply—please see the Department of State's Visa Types Page. There are no additional fees (for visas, guidance, etc.) that you will be asked to pay while you are waiting outside the Embassy for your appointment.